

What is claimed is:

1. A block encoding method, comprising steps of:

determining whether an original block of m bits is a  
5  $(2N-1)^{st}$  block of m bits, "m" and N being positive integers;  
and

encoding, if the original block of m bits is the  $(2N-1)^{st}$   
10 block of m bits, the original block of m bits as an A  
type weighted block of n bits, and, if otherwise, encoding  
the original block of m bits as a B type weighted block of n  
bits, "n" being an odd integer larger than "m".

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the bit number "a" of  
bit "1" in the A type weighted block of n bits satisfies a  
15 relation  $2^m < {}_nC_a$ , "a" being a positive integer, and the bit  
number of "1" in the B type weighted block of n bits is given  
by "n-a".

3. A block decoding method, comprising steps of:

20 determining whether a weighted block of n bits is an A  
type block of n bits, "n" being an odd integer; and

decoding, if the weighted block of n bits is the A type  
block of n bits, the A type block of n bits as a  $(2N-1)^{st}$   
original block of m bits and, if otherwise, decoding the  
25 weighted block of n bits as a  $2N^{th}$  original block of m bits, N  
being a positive integer and "m" being a positive integer

smaller than "n".

4. The method of claim 2, wherein the bit number "a" of "1" in the A type weighted block of n bits satisfies a relation  $2^m < {}_nC_a$ .

5. A coding/decoding apparatus, comprising:

a first buffer for outputting a digitalized image signal on a basis of an original block of m bits and generating a timing signal for notifying when the original block is outputted, "m" being a positive integer;

a first control part for determining whether the original block of m bits is a  $(2N-1)^{st}$  original block of m bits, based on the timing signal, N being a positive integer;

an encoding part for encoding, if the original block of m bits is the  $(2N-1)^{st}$  original block of m bits, the original block of m bits as an A type weighted block of n bits and, if otherwise, encoding the original block of m bits as a B type weighted block of n bits, "n" being an odd integer larger than "m";

a storage medium for storing the encoded block of n bits;

a second buffer for outputting the encoded block stored at the storage medium on a basis of n bits and generating a second timing signal for notifying when the encoded block is outputted;

a second control part for determining whether the encoded block of n bits is the A type block of n bits based on the second timing signal; and

5 a decoding part for decoding, if the encoded block of n bits is the A type block of n bits, the encoded block of n bits as the  $(2N-1)^{st}$  original block of m bits and if otherwise, decoding the weighted block of n bits as the  $2N^{th}$  original block of m bits.

10 6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the bit number "a" of bit "1" in the A type weighted block of n bits satisfies a relation  $2^m < {}_nC_a$ , "a" being a positive integer, and the bit number of "1" in the B type weighted block of n bits is given by "n-a".

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